

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057382

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, PA

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR PARAGUAY PARM
REF: STATE 45451, 38356, 38338

1. LONG-TERM U.S. INTERESTS IN PARAGUAY WOULD APPEAR TO
HAVE CHANGED LITTLE SINCE PREPARATION OF THE LAST CASP.
OUR PRIORITY INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS IS COMPLEMENTED BY
OUR INTEREST IN PROMOTING U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTI-
CULARLY AS RELATED TO NEW HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENTS,
MINERAL PROSPECTS AND THE GENERALLY IMPROVED STATE OF
THAT COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.

2. THE PARM SHOULD ADDRESS HOW WE FURTHER PURSUE OUR MAJOR
OBJECTIVE OF SEEKING AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS
POLICY OF THE GOP. AS NOTED IN THE REFERENCED BROAD
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TRENDS FORECAST, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS GIVEN
PRIORITY TO A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS. THE FORECAST EMPHASIZES PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL
RELATIONS AND THE NEED NOT ONLY TO REFLECT OUR INTEREST
IN SUCH SUBJECTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT BE SEEN TO DO SO.
NARCOTICS IS INCLUDED IN FORECAST'S GLOBAL LIST OF PROBLEMS.
THUS, ERADICATION OF DRUG SMUGGLING SHOULD CONTINUE AS

A MAJOR INTEREST, AND REQUIRE RESOURCE ALLOCATION.

3. THE CONTINUING MOMENTUM OF THE GOP IN RELEASING POLITICAL PRISONERS AND SPEEDING UP THE JUDICIAL PROCESS FOR THOSE REMAINING IN JAIL WILL BE CAREFULLY WATCHED IN THE U.S. CONTINUED MOVEMENT IS ESSENTIAL IF PARAGUAY WISHES TO AVOID THE SPOTLIGHT OF FURTHER U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES THAT COULD RESULT IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE REDUCTIONS. WHAT KIND OF PRESSURES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND IF THE GOP REVERTS TO TYPE? HOW WOULD SPECIFIC PRESSURES AFFECT OUR TRADE AND INVESTMENT INTERESTS?

4. THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROVIDE THE GOP AN OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERTAKE ADDITIONAL POSITIVE STEPS, SUCH AS CLARIFICATION OF POLICY TOWARDS ITS PRIMITIVE INDIANS, INVITE INSPECTION BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, FOLLOWUP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ETC. HOW CAN WE BE HELPFUL IN PROMOTING SUCH STEPS?

5. PARAGUAY IS THE ONE NATION IN THE SOUTHERN CONE THAT HAS ESCAPED "SANCTIONS" BY THE USG BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS EXCEPT IN TERMS OF THE REPORT TO CONGRESS. CAN PARAGUAY AFFORD TO BE LESS MACHO THAN ITS NEIGHBORS IN REACTION TO THE REPORT WHICH IS VIEWED AS INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS? PARAGUAY IS OBVIOUSLY WATCHING, LISTENING AND LEARNING REGARDING US HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS. BUT CAN IT AFFORD NOT TO TAKE STEPS TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM THE U.S. EVEN IF THE U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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DOES NOT TAKE FURTHER ACTION AGAINST THE GOP?

6. AS THE OTHER SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES SEEM TO DRAW CLOSER TOGETHER, WHAT WILL BE THE ROLE OF PARAGUAY? TORN BETWEEN A DESIRE FOR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND THE SIREN CALL OF SOLIDARITY WITH ITS SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS, WILL PARAGUAY TRY TO PLAY BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET OR CHOOSE SIDES? WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR LIMITED INTERESTS THERE?
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